



Embassy of the United States of America
Office of Public Affairs
Baku, Azerbaijan

83, Azadlıq Prospekti
AZ1007 Bakı, Azərbaycan
Email: SeyidovaG@state.gov

Phone: +(99412) 498 03 35
Fax: +(99412) 498 93 12
URL: <http://baku.usembassy.gov/>

MEDIA ADVISORY

Ambassador Bryza Highlights Cultural Preservation

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Ambassador Matthew Bryza visited the Udi community in Gabala Region's Nic settlement on July 23, touring the renovated Udi church, having lunch with community members on the church grounds, and becoming better acquainted with the Udi community.

Ambassador Bryza noted the importance of preservation projects such as the Udi church restoration to maintaining the rich cultural heritage of the South Caucasus region, stating, "preservation of cultural and religious monuments is of immense human importance, transcending all political, cultural and religious differences," he told the community, "and the preservation of your church, culture and language is a fine example of diversity and tolerance. I recently visited the Armenian Church in Baku and it is my sincere hope that someday, believers will be able to worship once again in their church, just as you can. I am pleased by the reverence local officials and private citizens show for these houses of God."



Ambassador's Bryza's visit came in the scope of a three day tour of the Gabala and Goychay regions where he spoke with attendees of U.S. Peace Corps-organized youth leadership camps, met with ExCom leaders, and also toured a pomegranate processing facility that has benefited from USAID's Azerbaijan Competitiveness and Trade program to increase incomes and produce jobs in the Goychay region.

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